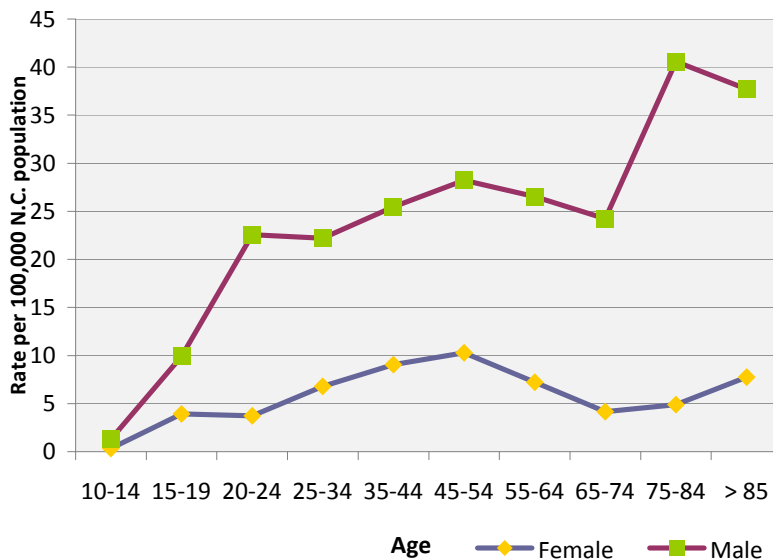


# SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in N.C. resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes deaths among N.C. residents caused by suicide for the year 2008.

**Gender-Specific Suicide Rates by Age: 2008**



- Suicide claimed 1,148 lives of North Carolina residents in 2008. The total of number of deaths as a result of violence was 1,884.

- Males consistently had a higher suicide rate than females, regardless of age. Suicide was most prevalent among men between 70-80 years old, peaking at a ratio of 40.6 per 100,000.

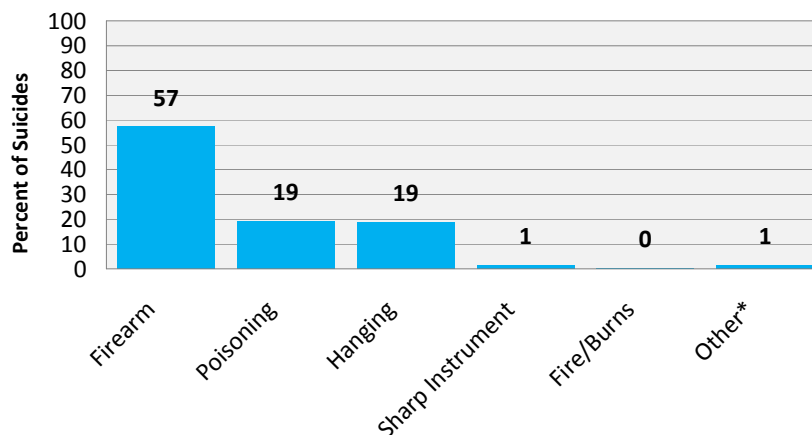
- The suicide rate peaked overall for adults ages 45 - 54 and remained relatively stable thereafter.

- The highest rate for females was 10.3 occurring between the ages of 45 and 54.

- Nearly 90 percent of all suicide victims were identified as white. Whites, particularly white males, had higher suicide rates than members of other racial groups.

- The majority of suicides (57 %) were accomplished using firearms.

**Method of Death: 2008**

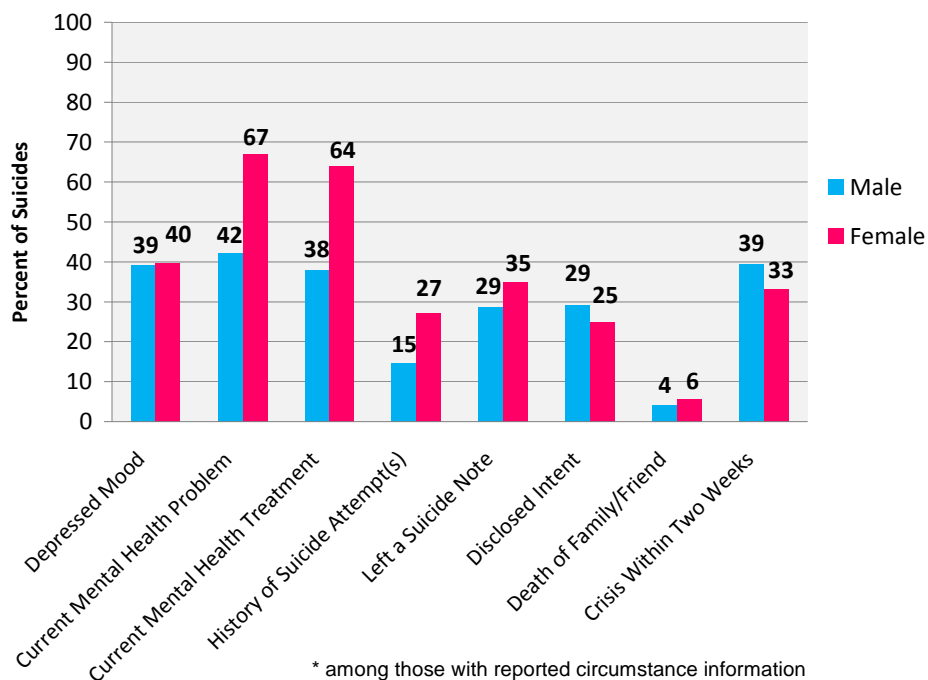


- After firearms, poisoning (19 %) and hanging (19 %) are the second and third leading causes of suicide, respectively.

- Less than 5 percent of suicides were accomplished using a method other than firearms, poisoning, or hanging.

\*Other includes falls, drowning, motor vehicle, and other causes of suicide.

### Suicide Circumstances\*: 2008



\* among those with reported circumstance information

- Twenty-eight percent of victims had disclosed their intention to commit suicide to someone else.
- Females (27 %) were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts than were males (15 %).
- More than 39 percent of suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being depressed.
- Sixty-seven percent of female victims and 42 percent of male victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.
- A similar trend was seen in mental health treatment. Sixty-four percent of females and 38 percent of males were being treated for a mental health problem at the time of death.
- Males (39 %) were more likely to have experienced a crisis within two weeks of death compared with females (33 %).

More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

#### State Resource Partners

**Mental Health Association in North Carolina, Inc.**

Contact: Romaine E. Riddle 919-866-3272

[www.mha-nc.org](http://www.mha-nc.org)

**N.C. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

[www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas)

**North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**

Contact: Krista Ragan, Child Death Investigator, 919-445-4414

[www.ocme.unc.edu](http://www.ocme.unc.edu)

**The Triangle Consortium for Suicide Prevention**

Contact: Phil Morse

[www.trianglesuicideprevention.org](http://www.trianglesuicideprevention.org)

#### National Resources

**The Suicide Prevention Resource Center**

[www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org)

**The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**

[www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)

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N.C. Division of Public Health / [www.ncpublichealth.com](http://www.ncpublichealth.com) / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425 / [www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov)

N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / [www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)

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